

REMARKS

Reconsideration And Allowance Are Respectfully Requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 are currently pending. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4, 9 and 10 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant's representative would first like to thank Examiners Michael Kyle and Chuck Mah for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on August 25, 2005. During the course of this interview, the prior art of record was discussed as it relates to the pending claims. After discussing proposed amendments, it was agreed the amendments overcome the outstanding rejection and that the amendments would be submitted for further review.

With this in mind, Applicant has amended the present application. In particular, claim 1 has been amended so as to define an ergonomic handle offering users a choice of horizontal or vertical gripping. The handle includes a first handle member shaped and dimensioned for gripping by an individual. The first handle member has a first longitudinal axis, a first end and a second end. The handle also includes a second handle member shaped and dimensioned for gripping by an individual. The second handle member has a second longitudinal axis, a first end and a second end. The first and second ends of the second handle member are provided with reduced diameters when compared to a central portion of the second handle member. The first end and the second end of the second handle member are, therefore, shaped and dimensioned to accommodate the shape of a user's hand.

The first handle member and the second handle member are connected such that the second longitudinal axis of the second handle member is oriented approximately perpendicular relative to the

first longitudinal axis of the first handle member. The first end of the first handle member is connected to the second end of the second handle member and the first end of the second handle of the member is connected directly to the appliance.

With regard to the outstanding rejection, claims 1-6, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by British Patent No. 907,520 (GB '520). In addition, claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '520 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,302 to Peppel et al. (Peppel). In addition, claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '520 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,044,083 to De Carolis et al. (De Carolis).

In contrast to the claimed invention, none of the cited prior art references disclose or suggest the claimed handle. In particular, none of the references disclose or suggest the claimed first handle member and second handle member oriented perpendicular to each other wherein the second handle member is connected to the appliance and includes first and second ends provided with reduced diameters when compared to a central portion of the second handle member.

With the foregoing in mind, it is Applicant's opinion that the outstanding rejections have been overcome and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested. If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard N. Flaxman", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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